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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/584,656	06/26/2006	Hiroshi Yamada	0388-061892	8167
28389 7590 01/22/2009 THE WEBB LAW FIRM, P.C. 700 KOPPERS BUILDING 436 SEVENTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA 15219				
EXAMINER JACYNA J CASIMER				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3754				
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01/22/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/584,656

Applicant(s)

YAMADA ET AL.

Examiner

J. Casimer Jacyna

Art Unit

3754

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/C)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- 7) ☐ Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/02/07

Art Unit: 3754

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 7-10, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsai 7,150,376. Tsai discloses a liquid storage container including a body 14, a storage portion 13, an instilling portion 11, a filter 181, a check valve 16 and a bottom cap 182 that extends over and thereby covers the aerating device as claimed.
3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsai 7,150,376. Tsai discloses a liquid storage container with a bottom cap 182 substantially as claimed but does not disclose the cap to be separable. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the cap 182 separable in order to allow replacement of and cleaning of the valve 16 and filter 181.

5. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsai 7,150,376 in view of Japan 6-15636. Tsai discloses a liquid storage container substantially as claimed but does not disclose an upper seal and a cap for opening the upper seal. However, Japan'636 teaches another liquid storage container having an upper seal 22 and a cap 28 that opens the upper seal for the purpose of ensuring against contamination of the liquid. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the container of Tsai with an upper seal and a cap for opening the seal as, for example, taught by Japan'636 in order to ensure against contamination of the liquid.

6. Claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan 1-110147 in view of Tsai 7,150,376. Japan'147 discloses a liquid storage container including a body 1, a storage portion 5, an instilling portion 22, 24, and an aerating device with a bottom check valve 32, 34 substantially as claimed but does not disclose a filter. However, Tsai teaches another liquid storage container having a bottom aerating device that is provided with a filter 181 for the purpose of ensuring against contamination of the liquid. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the container of Japan'147 with an aeration filter as, for example, taught by Tsai in order to ensure against contamination of the liquid.

7. Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oh 6,003,734 in view of Moon et al. 6,648,180. Oh discloses a liquid storage container including a body 34, a storage portion W, an instilling portion 12, an aerating device 30a

Art Unit: 3754

with a filter 32b as shown in figure 3 and disclosed on column 4, lines 61-63, and a separable cap 30 substantially as claimed but does not disclose a check valve.

However, Moon teaches another liquid storage container having a bottom aerating device 90 that is provided with both a filter and a check valve 94 for the purpose of ensuring against liquid leakage. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the aeration device of Oh with a check valve as, for example, taught by Moon in order to ensure against liquid leakage.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. Casimer Jacyna whose telephone number is 571-272-4889. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. 9AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached on 571-272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3754

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. Casimer Jacyna/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3754